



FIRST PERSON A Ticket to the Future



Photo by Fatima Kasmahunova, USAID

Sergey Sergeyev is now 22. In 2003, as graduation from the high school draw nearer, he was facing a seemingly insurmountable dilemma: he wanted to study finances and banking, but this profession is very popular in Kyrgyzstan, the competition is very stiff, and without connections or money it is nearly impossible to get into one of the government-financed places. Meanwhile the paid education was beyond Sergey's means.

Shortly before graduation, he heard that the National Scholarship Testing is to be conducted. Even though skeptical about its fairness, Sergey decided to try.

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Sergey Sergeyev, Bishkek,
Kyrgyzstan

Testing took place at the Polytechnic Institute. Immediately, Sergey was impressed with how the process was arranged. It became obvious that cheating here was not an option, and the young man began hoping that this might be his chance for education.

Two weeks later, the results came back. Sergey received one of the 200 highest scores in the country! This guaranteed a government scholarship and a place in any program at any university Sergey wanted. He could hardly believe his luck!

Now Sergey is a senior at one of the country's most prestigious schools – the Kyrgyz-Russian Slavic University. He is working towards a degree in finances and credits, and have already been hired by the international audit company "Deloitte&Touche."

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